We are proud to announce the following award recipient from the University of Michigan Division of Gastroenterology and Hepatology who will be recognized at DDW 2021.

**Robert J. Fontana, MD**

**Distinguished Educator Award**

American Gastroenterological Association

AGA Distinguished Educator Award recognizes the achievements of an outstanding educator who has a long record of major contributions to education in the field of gastroenterology and/or hepatology on both local and national levels.

AGA honors Robert Fontana, MD, with the Distinguished Educator Award, which recognizes an individual who has made outstanding contributions as an educator in gastroenterology on both local and national levels. Dr. Fontana's greatest teaching impact has been the establishment of one of the most highly successful transplant hepatology fellowship training programs in the country. He has taught countless medical students, residents and fellows, as well as faculty members via his clear, concise, and well-organized lectures and presentations. Dr. Fontana is a professor of medicine, medical director of liver transplantation, and director of transplant hepatology fellowship ACGME-accredited training program at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.
We are proud to announce the following news from the ASGE.

**Michelle A. Anderson, MD, MSc, FASGE**

**ASGE Distinguished Service Award**
American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy (ASGE)

This honor is presented to an individual who has made long-term contributions to GI endoscopy and is a strong supporter of the mission of the Society.

Dr. Anderson attended Wayne State University School of Medicine (1989-1993) and completed a residency in Internal Medicine (1993-1996) and fellowship in Gastroenterology (1996-1999) at the University of Michigan. In 2005, she was awarded a Master's Degree in Clinical Research and Statistics from the University of Michigan School of Public Health. Dr. Anderson joined the faculty at the University of Michigan in 1999 and was promoted to Associate Professor with tenure in 2013. Her research and clinical career is focused on gastrointestinal disease with a specific concentration on pancreatic diseases including chronic pancreatitis and pancreatic cancer. Using advanced endoscopy techniques including endoscopic ultrasound (EUS) and endoscopic retrograde cholangiopancreatography she cares for the full spectrum of benign and malignant pancreatic disorders. Dr. Anderson successfully completed an NIH-sponsored study centered on the discovery and validation of minimally invasive clinical biomarkers for the diagnosis of pancreatic cancer. Currently, she serves as the Physician Lead for the Interventional Endoscopy team at UM and the co-Director of the University of Michigan Comprehensive Cancer Center Multidiscipline Pancreatic Tumor Board.

On a national level, Dr. Anderson has served on the Standards of Practice Committee for the American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy (ASGE) for five years and in 2016 completed a three year term as the Chair of the ASGE Institute for Training Technology Committee. Dr. Anderson also completed her term as Counselor on the ASGE Governing Board. She remains active with ASGE and is currently co-leading the Diagnostic EUS Training Program that was launched in 2019. She speaks regularly on topics of pancreatic diseases and teaches advanced endoscopic techniques nationally and internationally. In the arena of chronic pancreatitis, Dr. Anderson led the development of National Guidelines in the care of patients with painful chronic pancreatitis. Additional work in this field include the publication of three peer-reviewed papers focused on pain, chronic pancreatitis and EUS including two of which involved a multi-center prospective cohort study of patients with chronic pancreatitis.
Linda C. Samuelson, PhD
2020 AGA Institute Council Section Research Mentor Award
Cellular & Molecular Gastroenterology Section

The AGA Institute Council Cellular & Molecular Gastroenterology Section occupies a unique niche within AGA as membership is not disease-based but focuses sharply on issues and themes related to the basic science underlying digestive diseases and gastrointestinal cell biology, with particular emphasis on conceptual and technical innovations in the field. The AGA Institute Council Section Research Mentor Award acknowledges AGA members for their achievements as section members who have demonstrated a track record of outstanding mentorship in gastrointestinal research.

Dr. Samuelson, PhD is recognized based on her fundamental findings on mechanisms of gastrointestinal stem cell biology, her impact mentoring trainees and junior faculty in basic gastrointestinal research, and her keen vision to developing basic science research programming at DDW.

Nobuhiko Kamada, PhD
AGA Young Investigator Award in Basic Science

The AGA Young Investigator Award recognizes two young investigators, one in basic science and one in clinical science, for outstanding research achievements.

AGA honors Nobuhiko Kamada, PhD, with the Young Investigator Award in Basic Science. Dr. Kamada is known for his innovation combining fields examining the microbiota and the immune system in IBD, specifically, the interplay between diet, commensal and pathogenic microbes, and the immune system. He has published stellar findings that have been highly cited within short periods of time due to their innovation.

Joel Rubenstein, MD, MSc, FASGE
ASGE Research Award
American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy (ASGE)

ASGE Research Awards are offered to investigators for projects in basic, translational and clinical research with a relationship to gastrointestinal endoscopy. The research committee considers funding pilot projects if there is an explicit outline for subsequent projects, and their funding plan (e.g. NIH, VA Merit), based on the preliminary data generated by the proposed pilot.

"We are very excited to accept this award, for, to our knowledge, this will be the first study to assess the long-term incidence of Barrett’s esophagus in a national database following a normal index endoscopy, and we will also assess whether acid reducing medications decrease the incidence of new Barrett’s esophagus."

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